

Claims (clean version encompassing amendments)

1. (once amended) In a method of administering a gravity segregating dispersion to a subject by continuous infusion, the improvement comprising controllably delivering said dispersion from an upper or lower extremity of an essentially vertically positioned delivery vessel and thereafter admixing with a flushing medium prior to administration to the subject.
2. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said delivery vessel comprises a syringe.
3. (once amended) The method of claim 2 wherein delivery of said dispersion from said syringe is controlled by a syringe driver.
4. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said dispersion is a gas-containing contrast agent.
5. (once amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said gas comprises sulphur hexafluoride or a perfluorinated low molecular weight hydrocarbon.
6. (once amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said perfluorinated hydrocarbon is perfluoropropane or perfluorobutane.

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7. (once amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said gas is present as albumin-stabilised microbubbles.
8. (once amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said gas is present as phospholipid-stabilised microbubbles.
9. (once amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said phospholipid predominantly comprises phosphatidylserine.
10. (once amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the delivery vessel comprises a syringe positioned for upward delivery of said contrast agent.
11. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said flushing medium is normal saline.
12. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the admixed dispersion and flushing medium are administered by injection.
13. (once amended) An apparatus for use in administration of a gravity segregating dispersion by continuous infusion, said apparatus comprising:
 - (i) a delivery device adapted to receive a dispersion-containing delivery vessel in an essentially vertical position and controllably to expel dispersion from an upper or lower extremity of said vessel;

- (ii) mixing means adapted to effect admixture of said expelled dispersion with a flushing medium; and
- (iii) conduit means adapted to conduct said admixed dispersion and flushing medium to an administration device.

14. (once amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said delivery device is a syringe driver adapted to receive an essentially vertically positioned syringe.
15. (once amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said mixing means comprise a three way connector or tap adapted to connect said delivery vessel and a source of flushing medium to said conduit means.
16. (once amended) The apparatus of claim 13 which further comprises flow rate controlling means for controlling the rate of flow of said flushing medium.
17. (once amended) The apparatus of claim 13 which further comprises means for inverting the position of said delivery vessel.

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